

Dear Mr. Town Manager,

(802) 6559311

I live on Mallett Bay Ave, just about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the Winooski line. I have signed 3 petitions in the 33 years of living here. I believe that I pay taxes just like the people on Blakely road or maybe because I am not as rich as those living on Thomas Dr or Rice way. Do they really need a side walk on both sides of the street? When I want to go for a safe walk with my daughter and grandchildren I have to drive to the Mallett Bay school and park there to be able to walk on the bike path. Why should I have to pay for extra gas to go for a walk? Why can't you put a side walk on one side of Mallett Bay Ave from Senasac farm to the Winooski side walk barely a mile if that.

I will be putting this issue in the Colchester Sun. I don't want to waste much of our tax dollars. Why?

**RECEIVED**

JUN 04 2007

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Sincerely

Jandra Klacik



# Town of Colchester

## Town Manager's Office

P.O. Box 55, 835 Blakely Road  
Colchester, Vermont 05446

6 June 2007

Mrs. Sandra J. Racicot  
2552 Malletts Bay Avenue  
Colchester, VT 05446-3830

Dear Mrs. Racicot:

Thank you for your letter of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, I can answer your questions. First and foremost, I agree with you that everyone should be able to walk from their home to anyplace in Town safely on a sidewalk or bike path. That is the long range goal of the Town's program in building sidewalks and bike paths linking Colchester neighborhoods to each other. Unfortunately this is a "retrofitting" program in that the Town in its earlier years did not build or require that sidewalks or bike paths be built as the Town grew. Catching up is an expensive process as you have indicated.

Specifically to your questions about Blakely Road the dual/parallel sidewalks is only for a short distance. The north side of Blakely Road east of Williams Road was "an add-on" to the original contract to address the needs of a person with a mobility disability. The section was constructed without additional cost to the Town by the Contractor. On the south side of Blakely Road between Lavigne Road and Thomas Drive that path was constructed to link the Thomas Road sidewalk with the sidewalk traveling east over the Interstate bridge to the Edgewater development. The crosswalk between the south to north sidewalks at Thomas Drive was also deemed to be safer for crossing than having that crosswalk occur at Williams Road because of sight distance.

Reference your request regarding Malletts Bay Avenue, the Town needs to build miles of sidewalks throughout the community with limited tax dollars. Although no one wants to here arguments why one corridor is more important then another, in the Town's current situation, prioritization is a necessary reality. As a part of that prioritization process, we need to consider issues such as overall public good. This includes evaluating how many people are served, what types of people are served, the connectivity that is accomplished, the safety issues that are corrected, the overall transportation benefits, all evaluated against cost. It is not to say that these issues are not relevant to Malletts Bay Avenue, it is a question of the comparative relevance to other corridors. For example, most of the sidewalk projects we have done are in areas where significant connections are made to such destination points as schools, churches, municipal offices, Post Office, Parks, beaches, shopping, offices, etc. They have also gone in on roadways where there is dense residential development where the people are regularly trying to reach these types of destination points. On Malletts Bay Avenue, we are talking about constructing 1.5 miles of sidewalks that travels by very little. Our master planning for pedestrian improvements does include this corridor. However, there are many years of future improvements that will likely be advanced before Malletts Bay Avenue.

Page 1 of 2 pages

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Letter to Ms. Racicot  
6 June 2007

Finally, I want to assure you that both Town planning and service delivery are motivated by and directed towards serving the "common good." Neighborhood wealth is never a consideration. Our projects are designed to serve the larger audiences of the community to maximize the value the money the Town spends. In that each landowner pays his/her fair share of the taxes approved by a majority of those voting the annual budget, neither in my knowledge nor under my direction has or would the Town favor any particular group of people in spending those taxes. The Town is here to serve all the people equally and fairly. Until the entire sidewalk-bike path system is built over the next twenty years, some people will need to use their vehicles to access the constructed portions of this pedestrian/biker system.

Thank you for taking the time to let me know your concerns.

Cordially,

Albin D. Voegele  
Town Manager

cc: Select Board